Financial Crisis in India's Nuclear Programme

1588. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that acute financial crisis is slowing down India's nuclear programme;

(b) if so, what are the details of the budgetary allocations for the Nuclear Power Programme during the last 3 years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the successful implementation of nuclear programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) On account of Budgetary Allocations by the Government and inadequate response from the market for borrowings, the implementation of new Power Projects by the Nuclear Power Corporation has been adversely affected.

(b) The Budgetary Allocations for the Nuclear Power Programme during the last three years are as follows :—

Year	Rs. in Crores
1989-90	240
1990-91	195
1991-92	136

(c) For successful implementation of new Atomic Power Projects additional resources have to be mobilised. One of the possibilities is implementation of new projects with participation of beneficiary State Governments and leading Public Sector Enterprises.

Technology for Production of Titanium and Zirconium

1589. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new electrolysis based technology has been developed in India to accelerate production of the two critical nuclear material viz. TITANIUM AND ZIRCONIUM;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to save foreign exchange per annum, indicating the country's requirements and availability of these materials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No new electrolysis process has been developed either in the Department of Atomic Energy or Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory for the production of Zirconium and Titanium metals.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Developing Technology to make Enriched Uranium

1590. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has already developed its own technology to make enriched Uranium;

(b) whether this technology could be used for running of the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant;

(c) if so, whether preliminary steps have since been taken in that direction; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) be in negative the reasons therefor ?